



In Touch



Newsletter by Employees, for Employees
of the American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.

September · October, 2003

Cleaning Crew Makes APH Shine, Saves Company Money

Leigh Miller, Public Affairs Intern

The APH Housekeeping Department (a.k.a. “the cleaning crew”) is responsible for keeping APH clean and safe. They keep the restrooms well supplied and make sure the offices, stairwells, factory floors, and halls are clean and clutter free. Prior to the establishment of a permanent Housekeeping Department in 1998, APH contracted with outside cleaning services – and was often dissatisfied with their work.

Jim Hill, who has been with APH for 40 years, is the department supervisor. The crew consists of **Martha Coy, Perry Garner, Tim Mackison**, and **Wende Ritchey** (as well as **Jerry Pardue**, who now works in salvage.)

The cleaning crew communicates on walkie-talkies as needed throughout each work day, and holds monthly meetings to discuss important issues. On occasion, they are asked to do more jobs than they can handle at one time, so they willingly come to work very early in the morning to get the work done without disrupting the regular workday. They recognize that there is always room for improvement and continually look for ways to work more efficiently.

Take toilet paper dispensers, for example. You may have noticed recently that new – and more cost efficient – dispensers were installed in APH restrooms. They can hold both a full roll of paper and a “stubroll” (or partial roll), which means that stubrolls are no longer rolling across



APH Cleaning Crew (l-r): Martha Coy, Perry Garner, Jim Hill, Tim Mackison, Wende Ritchey, and Jerry Pardue.

restroom floors or being thrown away. This safety and cost efficient change is typical of the Continuous Improvement efforts of the cleaning crew.

Ron Gadson, division manager for Maintenance (which includes Housekeeping) says, “We are fortunate to have the caliber of people we have performing our housekeeping work. They are conscientious, committed, take pride in their work, and do a good job consistently.” **Jim Hill** also praised his crew for their dedication and strong work ethic. He says that, in general, “A lot of people take for granted what we (everyone at APH) do. They don’t realize that what we do affects the lives of so many people – all over the world. Each of us plays an important role in that work.”



Take a Cosmic Journey with Us: Annual Meeting 2003

Becki Moody, Communications

“The Joy of The Journey” is the theme for the 135th Annual Meeting of the Ex Officio Trustees and Special Guests. This promises to be an out-of-this-world event as we welcome keynote speaker Dr. Kent Cullers and present many other informative and interactive sessions. Come with us as we voyage to the Camberley Brown Hotel, October 16-19, 2003.

Dr. Kent Cullers, often referred to as the world’s first blind physicist, is scheduled to keynote this year’s Annual Meeting. Dr. Cullers has been involved in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) since



Dr. Kent Cullers

1980, the year he received his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of California at Berkeley. Cullers, a former NASA Employee of the Year, currently works for the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California, where he is Director for SETI Research and Development.

Highlights of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will include sessions giving overviews of APH’s activities throughout the year, training on APH products, and an Information Fair demonstrating new products or products in development. The Federal Quota Census and other duties of Ex Officio Trustees will also be discussed.

Another anticipated Annual Meeting event is the Awards Dinner. APH InSights artists will be honored and several artists will make the trip to Louisville with their families to receive their awards in person. In addition to honoring the artists, APH will take the opportunity to recognize deserving professionals in the field of vision.

History of Annual Meeting

The federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind (1879) mandates that APH hold a yearly meeting of the Ex Officio Trustees. These Ex Officio Trustees are responsible for administering the Federal Quota money that provides books and materials to visually impaired students within their state programs. Ex Officio Trustees purchase a large percentage of our products and also serve as advisors to APH by recommending new products and policies.

Contact Your Supervisor if You Wish to Participate

Many employees at APH are involved in preparations for Annual Meeting both at APH and at the Brown Hotel. Jobs may include stuffing packets, transporting artwork, registering Annual Meeting guests, and presenting poster sessions. If you would like to be involved, check with your supervisor to find out how you can participate.

For the latest Annual Meeting agenda, go to: www.aph.org/anmtg/annmtg03/agenda. If you would like to attend one or more of the sessions, please ask your supervisor.





Featured Employee:

Carol Tobe



Leigh Miller, Public Affairs Intern

Amidst a colorful collage wall, flowers from her garden, and old braillewriters purchased on *e-bay*, one can find **Carol Tobe**, this issue's featured employee. Carol is director of the Marie and Eugene Callahan Museum of APH. She was snatched up by APH to consult the construction of the museum in 1990 and has been sharing her creativity with APH ever since.



Carol then

Carol grew up in Eastern Jefferson County. Though it is well developed now, she remembers it being quite rural when she attended its three-room grade school. Carol later attended the University of Louisville and studied

graphic design. After college, she became professionally involved in arts and museum administration, and served as the first art director for *Louisville Magazine*. She also served as a founding member and director of a small museum in New Albany, Indiana, and then moved on to historic preservation. Prior to APH, Carol worked at the Louisville Art Gallery and the Louisville Visual Arts Association.

Responsibilities of the APH museum are numerous. Among them is long range planning for the museum, care of the collection, research services, and educational programming. **Anne Rich**, museum associate, shares these responsibilities

with Carol, and had this to say, "Carol is a terrific mentor, very creative, and has done a wonderful job of developing an interesting and unique museum."

The result of Carol's dedication and skill is a museum that celebrates the

history of the education of people who are blind and APH's role in that history. Carol feels that the museum, which was started from "scratch" and took four years to complete, is the only museum (and resource) of its kind in the country.

Carol's artistic ability carries over into her life outside APH. She cooks, gardens, and creates landscape oil paintings. When cooking she always uses fresh ingredients and loves to make things up as she goes along. Carol is a member of a grassroots environmental organization that promotes better land use planning in Floyd County, Indiana, where she now lives. Married since 1960, Carol is a mother of three and a grandmother of nine.

What is this artist's message for APH employees? "Don't throw anything away without asking me first!" Carol refers to her efforts to establish and maintain the APH historical archives. When you are cleaning files, or if you should come across any documents or artifacts that you think may be significant to APH's history – please pass them along to Carol!



Carol now

First to guess that **Carol Tobe** is the featured employee in this issue of *In Touch* were **Rhonda Carlton** (CTS), **Dena Garrett** (ATIC),

Marilyn Cheatham (Human Resources), **Marci Nord** and **Mary Crawford** (Production).



Welcome to APH! **Ralph Bartley**, Interim Director of Educational and Technical Research, and **Julia Myers**, Director of Resource Services.

The APH Callahan Museum has received yet another honor! The traveling exhibit about the history of the education of the blind will receive the American Association of State and Local History's Certificate of Commendation in September. An award dinner will be held in Providence, Rhode Island on September 19, at which the exhibit will be recognized for outstanding achievement in the field of history. *Congratulations to our very professional museum staff – **Carol Tobe** and **Anne Rich**!*

Did you know that **Carol Tobe** (Museum) was **Marci Nord's** (Production) high school art teacher?

Alice Barnes

(Development) is delighted to announce that her granddaughter, **Audrey Spradlin** – born October 12, 2002 – won her first beauty contest in July! Audrey took first place in the “7-12 month old girls” category, beating out about 30 competitors at the Washington County, Indiana fair opening in Salem. She received a trophy, a \$5 gift certificate to WalMart, and a ride on a float in the parade. *Congratulations to Audrey's very proud family (especially her grandmother Alice!)*



Audrey Spradlin

Congratulations to **Chris Parente** (Studio) for his impressive showing in the 18th Annual Best of Louisville Awards. Chris, a studio narrator, came in second place in the category “Local TV Morning Host.” Contest winners were announced in the July issue of *Louisville Magazine*. *Great job, Chris. We're proud of you!*

Congratulations to the APH 2003 Service Award winners for their many years of outstanding service to APH!

40 Years: **Jim Hill**

35 Years: **Anna Fox, Ruth Wohner**

30 Years: **Lila Adkins, Margie Cosby, Marsha Overstreet, Mary Reinert, Margaret White**

25 Years: **Rosanne Broome, Mary Cissell, Diana Conley, Saramma George, Luann Hall, Darlene Howard, Norma Huff, Ronnie Overstreet, Jerry Pardue, Brett Pike, Betty Jean Reece, Barbara Rodgers, Rhonda Schaefer, Arthur Vaughn**

20 Years: **Marguerite Allen, Theresa Close, Mary Nelle McLennan, Kevin Saltz**

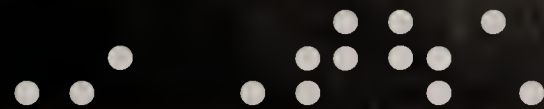
15 Years: **Todd Hasson, David Hines, Carol Tvaroh**

10 Years: **Christine Anderson, John Hedges, Laura Myers, Carol Roderick**

5 Years: **Randy Davidson, Jill Fox, Tony Grantz, Richard Hauenstein, Elaine Kitchel, Nancy Lacewell, Joanie O'Brien, Bill Randall, Larry Skutchan**



Send Us Your News for the Next Issue!



TLC's Trading Spaces meets APH members

Bernie Mudd, Communications

Some members of the APH Communications Department and their families went "Hollywood" when TLC's *Trading Spaces: Family Edition* show came to Louisville in June.

Web master **Malcolm Turner's** sister-in-law, **Kathleen Blake**, produced the episode filmed in Louisville's South End neighborhood near Iroquois Park. Malcolm and his wife, **Susanne**, were told to bring some friends to see the "reveal" portion of the show. Several APHers were more than ready to oblige.

Bernie Mudd, her husband **Pat**, her sister **Karen**, and her nieces **Alicia**, **Shannon**, and **Whitney**; along with **Bridgett Johnson** (Bisig Impact Group) and her daughter **Brennan**, all joined Malcolm, Susanne, and their daughter **Elanor** for the big event. The APH crew was on hand to watch as Joe, the host, said to the owners, "Okay, open your eyes!" It was a very exciting event that the APH "star gazers" will want to share over and over.



***Bernie Mudd's** nieces – **Alicia**, **Shannon**, and **Whitney** – pose in front of the famous *Trading Spaces* trailer while waiting to meet celebs from the show.*

If you are a follower of the show that airs on TLC – **Joe Farrell** is the host of the new *Trading Spaces: Family Edition*. **Carter** is the new carpenter. On this episode, **Christi** and **Hildi** were the designers. *Trading Spaces: Family Edition* airs on TLC, Sunday evenings at 7 p.m., and the segments taped in Louisville will be airing in early fall.



APH In Touch ...

Production Staff: **Gary Mudd**, **Nancy Lacewell**, and **Becky Snider** (Public Affairs)

Scott Blome and **Bridgett Johnson** (Communications)

Distribution Manager: **Becky Snider** (895-2405 ext. 356)



Featured Employee:

Next Issue



Who is this? Some “helpful” clues ...



- He was born in New York, just outside “the city.”
- His wife is a former APH employee.
- At one time, he was in the chorus of the Kentucky Opera.
- He is celebrating a major professional milestone at APH that has something to do with the book *Captain Blood*.
- His children live in New York, Arizona, and Kentucky.



Continuous Improvement Corner



Arthur Vaughn, *Human Resources*

When a team is created with a specific product or process in mind and people representing every aspect of that product or process are involved – great things can happen.

In the past, ATIC books have always been sent out by UPS and shipped via ground service. This is a costly process in which the customer’s quota dollars are used for postage instead of products.

During an ATIC team meeting this topic surfaced, and after some discussion **Jane Thompson** (ATIC) and **Rhonda Schaefer** (Shipping) agreed to look further into the situation. They tested the idea by shipping books out free mail to specific customers to determine how long it would take books to be delivered. After the books were delivered to the customer in an acceptable time frame, it was agreed that from now on, APH will ship ATIC books via free

matter for the blind – unless the customer requests otherwise.

This means that some customers may have substantial dollars to spend on APH products instead of on shipping expenses.

Thanks Jane, Rhonda and the whole ATIC team!



ATIC team helps customers stretch their quota dollars.

Local Voice Wins National Recognition

Leigh Miller, Public Affairs Intern

Barry Bernson was this year's recipient of the prestigious Alexander Scourby Award. A narrator in the studios of the American Printing House for the Blind, Bernson was recognized for his excellence in the narration of nonfiction NLS Talking Books. The annual narration awards presented by the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) started in 1986 in memory of Alexander Scourby. Scourby recorded for the Talking Books program for nearly 50 years and was AFB's most popular narrator.

Bernson majored in journalism at the University of Iowa. He later became involved in television, covering human interest feature stories and the

morning news. For the past 18 years Bernson has worked for WHAS-11 and is currently the co-anchor of Louisville's top-rated noon news program.

Though Bernson has won multiple Emmy and "best feature" awards for his news work, the Alexander Scourby Award for his narration remains "an amazing honor." Bernson has recorded over 300 titles throughout his career at APH. He describes the recording process as a "collaborative art" and thereby gives special credit to the literary monitors, especially **Rebecca Bodnar**.



The Bernsons (l-r); Dr. Sam, Kathy, Barry, and Ethel



Callahan Museum Showing Laura Bridgman Artifacts

Carol Tobe, Museum

The new exhibit in the changing exhibit case at the Callahan Museum showcases artifacts relating to **Laura Bridgman** (1829-1889). Laura was the first deaf and blind person to learn language and, in the mid-nineteenth century, one of the most famous women in the world. She was the star pupil of **Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe** who taught her to communicate with her fingers and to express her thoughts in writing. Laura came to study at Perkins School for the Blind when she was seven years old and stayed at the school until her death.

An outstanding item in the collection is the pair of tiny "gem tintypes" of Laura Bridgman. These

photographs, which are about one inch square, were probably meant to be cut apart. The museum also owns an original letter handwritten in pencil by Laura, and several original, contemporary newspaper articles about her education and life.



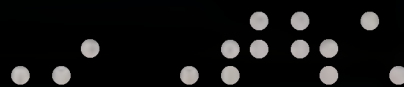
Illustration of Laura Bridgman from Ballou's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion, April 26, 1856.





Employee

Birthdays



September

1 Lonnie Carnes
Michael Hardin
Lee Wickenheiser
4 George Williams
5 Tim Mackison
6 Silver Bryant
8 Michael Druin
Betty Hardin
10 Brian Dougherty
15 Jill Fox
16 Bonnie Zurschmeide
Perry Garner
Rhonda Schaefer
Bruce Huntley
19 Bill Beavin
20 Valerie Cox
21 Stacy Calvert
22 Kathryn Sanders
23 Deborah Timmel
Bettie Cox

24 Erin Johnson
25 Gage Brogan
Terri Coleman
27 Kathy Smiddy
Butch Hoover
Gary Mudd
30 Robert Steffen

October

2 Patricia Raley
3 Joyce Enteman
Watana Brown
Darlene Jones
8 Saramma George
Janet Williams
9 David Myers
14 John Polk
Tom Poppe

15 Becky Snider
Ralph Bartley
Jack Decker
16 Rita Hayes
18 Loretta Devore
Debra Allgood
Leila Faucette
Jim Hill
19 Barbara Acra
20 Judy Franke
21 Tonya Schott
Sandi Baker
22 Eudora Smith
25 Linda Hill
Ronald O'Bannon
Norma Hardin
27 Theresa Davis
28 Ron Gadson
Rob Meredith
29 Martha Berry
31 Sandy Jeanes

November

2 Jerry Pardue
Maxine Floden
3 Wende Ritchey
5 Marilyn Cheatham
6 Eutiva Frank
10 Donald Asberry
11 Monica Thurston
14 Joanie O'Brien
Everett Logsdon
15 Carol Roderick
Sheila Lambert
16 Margaret White
Jack Fox
18 Artina Paris
19 B. J. Reece
20 Rebecca Bodnar
21 Christine Anderson
22 Gail Pryor
24 Lou Tingle
27 Terrence Nord
Rosanne Hoffmann
Fred Otto
28 Elaine Kitchel
30 Rodger Smith
Micheal Scrogam



In Touch ...

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